

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted prior to the first examination and action of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The claims pending in this application are amended claims 11-14 and 39-41 and newly added claims 60-312. It is Applicant's belief that the inventive concept recited in such claims is patentable over the art of record in the parent application and that such claims are necessary to afford Applicant with the degree of patent protection to which Applicant is entitled by law.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning the before-mentioned amendments to the application or any other matter, Applicant's attorney will welcome the opportunity to discuss same with the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas J. Sorocco, Reg. No. 43,145
DUNLAP, CODDING & ROGERS, P.C.
9400 North Broadway, Suite 420
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73114
(405) 478-5344 - telephone
(405) 478-5349 - telefax

Attorney for Applicants

ATTACHMENT A

In the Specification:

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/469,200, filed December 21, 1999, entitled "HYALURONATE SYNTHASE GENE AND USES THEREOF", which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 08/899,040, filed July 23, 1997, entitled "HYALURONATE SYNTHASE GENE AND USES THEREOF", now abandoned, and [relates to] which also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application U.S. Serial No. 60/064,435, filed October 31, 1997, entitled "GROUP C HYALURONAN SYNTHASE GENE AND USES THEREOF".

In the Claims:

11. (Once Amended) A recombinant host cell, wherein the recombinant host cell is a **[prokaryotic] *Bacillus subtilis*** cell transformed with a recombinant vector comprising a purified nucleic acid segment having a coding region encoding enzymatically active hyaluronan synthase.
39. (Once Amended) A method for producing hyaluronic acid, comprising the steps of:
- introducing a purified nucleic acid segment having a coding region encoding enzymatically active hyaluronan synthase into a **[host organism, wherein the host organism contains nucleic**

acid segments encoding enzymes which produce UDP-

GlcNAc and UDP-GlcA] *Bacillus subtilis* strain;

growing the [host organism] *Bacillus subtilis* strain in a medium

to secrete hyaluronic acid; and

recovering the secreted hyaluronic acid.

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